

TOWN COUNCIL WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

August 4, 2016

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, August 8th, Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee, 4:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Tuesday, August 9th, Town Council Committee of the Whole, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Wednesday, August 10th, RTM, 7:30 p.m., Groton Senior Center

NEW PATROL VEHICLES



The Groton Police Department is transitioning to a "new look" for its police fleet. Last year the Department began to take delivery of Ford Police Interceptors (on the left in the photo above) that will overtime replace the department's aging Crown Victorias that have traditionally been used as patrol vehicles. The "Crown Vic" ceased production after the 2011 model year.

In addition, starting this summer the Department will begin to utilize the traditional "Black and White" color scheme so commonly recognized as police

vehicles. Studies have shown that the "Black and White" color scheme is effective in immediately identifying a police car and may even give the appearance of more cruisers on the road.

According to Chief Fusaro, "Having patrol cars that are marked with traditional and recognizable colors allows the public to immediately identify them on the road and in the community. Another added benefit is the reduced cost of the new 'wrapped' cars verses the more costly multi-color paint scheme."

The selection of the new design came after a careful analysis of several suggestions made by officers to the department's Cruiser Committee. It is expected that the new color scheme will be phased in over the next several years as older vehicles are replaced.

UPDATE ON CLIENTFIRST INITIATIVES

Town staff has been working concurrently on a number of FYE 2016 funded initiatives associated with the Enterprise Applications Master Plan that was completed in May 2015. The master plan identifies strategies to:

- Improve staff productivity through the utilization of software applications
- Improve software application management and support
- Improve software selection methodology
- Maximize use of software application systems
- Ensure best practices through the establishment of an IT Steering Committee
- Expand citizen communication and online customer service
- Develop a sustainability plan for IT hardware and software

Currently, IT and Town Manager's Office staff are working with ClientFirst to finalize the Request for Proposal (RFP) for an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System, which is the largest component of the master plan. The 285-page RFP is expected to be released to vendors by the end of August. Evaluation of vendor responses and short-listing will be followed by vendor demonstrations in the fall. The Town is currently on track to select a vendor by the end of 2016; however, no contract can be signed unless and until funding is approved in the FYE 2018 budget.

Another initiative underway is development of a Public Safety IT Master Plan. The objective of the plan is to develop and articulate a vision for the effective use of technology to support the operations and goals of the Town's police and emergency communications operations. In August, ClientFirst will be interviewing staff from the various functional units (patrol, records, dispatch, etc.) to identify current and future use of technology and software applications. The Master Plan development project will be completed in approximately four months.

The Town has also established an IT Steering Committee which is a group of employees from a variety of departments and disciplines that will provide long-term direction and oversight for the Town's IT systems. The group, which is expected to meet once a month for at least the first year, will help prioritize IT initiatives, oversee implementation of initiatives identified in the Enterprise Applications Master Plan, provide a forum for lessons learned during software implementation, review and provide feedback on technology projects, update standards and policies, and provide a forum for new technology applications to ensure best practices are being followed.

DINING IN THE DEEP – BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Once again ten lucky participants will be chosen in a drawing to experience Dining in the Deep: Food Preparation, Food Service and Life of the Culinary Specialist aboard a Submarine. The drawing winners will visit a Virginia Class Submarine Galley Replica Trainer and also watch food preparation and dine there on August 17th at 11:30 a.m. Space is limited to ten attendees and the cost of lunch is \$5.55 per person.

Prospective attendees must register at www.ctsubmarinecentury.com/dininginthedeep and will be requested to provide their name, age, citizenship, and e-mail/phone contact information. A drawing will be held to determine the lucky winners who will be notified by August 10th.

Designated attendees will meet at the Submarine Force Museum, 1 Crystal Lake Road at least 15 minutes before the lecture time. The attendees will then board a van and be escorted onto the SUBASE by Navy personnel. All attendees must have government photo identification and all must participate in Navy security screening similar to what they might encounter at an airport. This is an open opportunity and designated attendees cannot transfer or sell their allotted space.

For more information, please call the Groton Public Library at 860-441-6750.

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORTS

1. Office of Planning and Development Services (June):

- Kevin Quinn was named the 2016 Building Official of the year by the Builders and Remodelers Association of Southeastern Connecticut.
- Paul Dickson, Code Enforcement Inspector, accepted an Associate Planner position with the City of Meriden.
- The 2016 Plan of Conservation and Development was unanimously adopted by the Planning Commission and will become effective October 1st.
- The Planning Commission approved site plans for a new U-Haul self-storage and rental facility on Route 184 and a new 147 unit apartment complex on Route 12 and Pleasant Valley Road North.
- The Zoning Commission approved a special permit for a new brewery in Factory Square on Water Street.
- An \$800,000 grant was awarded to the Town by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for the next phase of renovations at Pequot Village.
- The Town was also awarded a \$50,000 Brownfields Grant from the DECD to market the Mystic Education Center.

Attachments

MRO/lh

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

June 2016

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Kevin Quinn was named 2016 Building Official of the Year by the Builders and Remodelers Association of Southeastern Connecticut (BAEC) at their June 21st meeting. He also received this award in 2003. Nominations were made by the members attending the event. Kevin was chosen because of his dedication and leadership in the field. Kevin is a 29-year employee of the Town of Groton and is a Master Code Professional. Kevin is widely known and well respected by the greater Groton community. Groton is lucky to have him.



Paul Dickson, Code Enforcement Inspector, accepted an Associate Planner position with the City of Meriden. Paul was the main point of contact for zoning, blight and rental housing code complaints. Until his position is filled, resolution of complaints will be limited. Life safety issues will continue to be swiftly addressed.

COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Bunny Furlong resigned her appointment to the Inland Wetland Agency. She was originally appointed in October, 2002. Christine Grady resigned her appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Christine served on the ZBA for 12 years. Both were valuable members of their respective land use commissions and their presence will be missed.

LAND USE COMMISSION VACANCIES

CONSERVATION COMMISSION	4
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMM.	2
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY	2
PLANNING COMMISSION	1
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	3
ZONING COMMISSION	3

Anyone interested in serving on a land use commission should contact the Planning Department.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the adoption of the 2016 Plan of Conservation and Development. The Plan was unanimously adopted and will become effective October 1st. This was a lengthy process that resulted in a Plan that emphasizes the support of Groton's villages, the redevelopment of downtown into a mixed use community and the promotion of sustainable economic development.

The Planning Commission approved a site plan for a new UHAUL self-storage and rental facility on Route 184. Construction is underway and the facility is expected to open next year.

The Commission approved a site plan for a new 147 unit apartment complex on Route 12 and Pleasant Valley Road North. This is the seventh New England project for A.R. Building, the owner/developer of the project as they expand their presence outside the Pittsburg area. They anticipate renting to both young professionals and retirees.

The Commission also approved a plan for a new bank building at the Marketplace Plaza. Citizen's Bank, currently located at the Groton Shopper's Mart, will move across the street to a smaller building better suited to today's banking habits. The drive-through sushi restaurant building will be demolished to make way for the new bank. OPDS is working with the owner to find a new location.

Zoning Commission

The Commission approved a Special Permit for a new brewery in Factory Square on Water Street. Water Street is seeing an increase in small niche restaurants. The owner was pleased with the quick approval process after a disappointing experience in Stonington where he tried to establish a brewery last year.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

An \$800,000 grant was awarded to the town from the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for the next phase of renovations at Pequot Village.

The town was awarded a \$50,000 Brownfields Grant from DECD to market the Mystic Education Center. The funds will be used to advertise and solicit developers for the property. The arrangement gives the town a major role in the redevelopment process that will expedite the transfer of the property from the State to a private developer, generating significant tax revenue.

The division sponsored a presentation by FranNet, a nationwide franchise consultant firm called "Road Map to Entrepreneurship". The event was held at the Groton Public Library and various approaches and strategies to starting a small business were discussed.

INSPECTION SERVICES DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ Total building fees collected for FYE 2016 less reimbursements: \$406,958
- ◇ Mystic Business Park Phase II located at 700 Flanders Road continues to expand with the start of construction on Building #10.
- ◇ The former Clad In retail store at 24 West Main Street is under renovation for use as a restaurant which will provide Mystic Drawbridge Ice Cream a place to expand and serve a larger lunchtime crowd.
- ◇ New signage is being installed for Groton Shopping Plaza at 688 Long Hill Road location of the new Aldi's.
- ◇ Town of Groton projects underway this summer are the replacement of the deck at the Esker Point Beach Pavilion and the re-roofing of Fitch Middle School.

ITEM	RECEIVED IN JUNE	FISCAL YEAR 2016 TOTAL
BUILDING PERMITS	56	621
ELECTRICAL PERMITS	42	362
PLUMBING PERMITS	9	148
MECHANICAL PERMITS	23	284
SPRINKLER PERMIT	0	8
MOBILE HOME PERMITS	1	7
ESTIMATED VALUE	5,783,620	
RESIDENTIAL PERMITS ISSUED—NEW	0	10
ESTIMATED VALUE	0	1,850,500
RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS	42	395
NEW COMMERCIAL PERMITS	1	4
COMMERCIAL ADDITIONS	6	50
SIGNS	1	16
POOL PERMITS	3	8
SHED PERMITS	2	23
SINGLE FAMILY/DUPLEX UNITS APPROVED	0	28
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED (less reimbursements)	56,979	
CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED	3	87
HDC CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS	6	53
CODE ENFORCEMENT		
SIGN VIOLATIONS	0	361
VEHICLES/WASTE	1	10
OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS	5	22
PENDING LITIGATION	2	4
CASES RESOLVED	2	17
BLIGHT CODE		